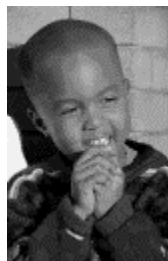


# How to Become A Family Child Care Provider In New York City





**Child Care, Inc.**  
**275 Seventh Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**New York, NY 10001**  
**Tel: (212) 929-7604**  
**Tel: (212) 929-5785**  
**[www.childcareinc.org](http://www.childcareinc.org)**

If you enjoy working with young children, and would like to work in your own home, family child care might be the right choice for you.



### **WHAT IS FAMILY CHILD CARE?**

The term family child care refers to any ongoing arrangement in which child care is provided in the family child care provider's home. Family child care providers can care for infants, toddlers, pre-school children and school-age children who need supervision before school and after they leave school.

### **HOW MANY CHILDREN CAN BE CARED FOR?**

In New York City, you can choose between two different models of family child care, depending on how many children you wish to care for.

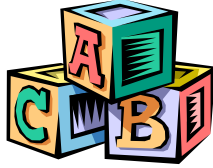
#### **FAMILY CHILD CARE**

You may care for a maximum of six children at any time when all the children are over two years of age (including your own children under the age of twelve years). You can care for children between the ages of six weeks to twelve years and no more than two children under the age of two years. In addition, when any child is under two years of age, the total number you may care for is five.

#### **GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE**

You may care for seven to twelve children at any one time (including your own) with the help of an assistant. You can care for children between the ages of six weeks to twelve years, with no more than four children under the age of two.

When considering how many children you actually care for, it is important to think carefully about how many children you can handle comfortably and safely.



## **HOW DO I BECOME A REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER?**

If you are caring for at least three children, you are required to be registered with the New York State Office of Children & Families.

To become a registered provider, you must be at least 18 years of age and complete an application that states:

- That you and everyone in your household are in good health.
- That your home meets all safety requirements.
- That you have never been convicted of a felony and that all adults in your home have been screened through the child abuse register.
- **That you and everyone in your household 16 years of age and older must be fingerprinted.**
- Your home must be visited by the New York City Department of Health and your home must have two exits.
- You have 2 years experience caring for children under six years or 1 year experience plus 6 hours of training.
- ☺ **Complete 15 hours of Health & Safety Training.**

## **HOW DO I BECOME A LICENSED GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER?**

If you are caring for seven to twelve children, you are required to seek licensing through New York State Office of Children's Families. You will need to complete applications for yourself and your assistants and provide medical information to prove that you and members of your household are in good health. In addition, group family child care providers must be at least 18 years and meet the requirements for training and experience for family child care providers as listed above. You must live in a fireproof building and on the first floor. Your apartment or home should also have two exits.



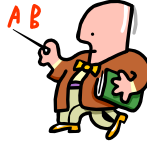
## **HOW DO I APPLY FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE REGISTRATION?**

For an application and information about family child care registration, you should call the **New York City Department of Health** at **(212) 280-9251**. Hours are 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. If you need help with your application, you can call **Child Care, Inc. Business Resource Center** at (212) 929-7604 ext. 3037.

## **HOW DO I APPLY FOR GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE LICENSING?**

For an application, call the New York City Department of Health at (212) 280-9251.

For help with your application, you can call **Child Care, Inc. Business Resource Center** at **(212) 929-7604 ext. 3037**.



## **WHERE CAN I GET FINGERPRINTED?**

Child Care, Inc. and other resource and referral agencies in New York City can now offer fingerprinting to providers. Call Child Care, Inc. at (212) 929-7604 ext. 3022 to make an appointment for fingerprinting for yourself and members of your family.

## **WHERE CAN I OBTAIN TRAINING?**

Training will be available through networks and through child care resource and referral agencies. For information on training conducted by **Child Care, Inc.** call (212) 929-7604 ext. 3008.

## **ARE THERE ANY FEES INVOLVED?**

You do not have to pay for your license or registration. You may be able to get a scholarship through the New York State Educational Incentive Program, a scholarship, to pay for your training costs. To request an application, call 1-800-295-9616.

## **CAN I GET A START-UP GRANT?**

Start-up monies are available to new providers to help you make your program safe. If you meet the requirements you can get \$500 of health and safety equipment. You can also use the grant to pay for your health and safety training. For more information call Child Care, Inc. ext. 3044.

## **WHAT ABOUT THE CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM?**

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is a meal reimbursement program that pays for meals and snacks served to children in your home. For more information call 1-800-942-3858.

## **CAN A FAMILY CHILD CARE NETWORK HELP ME?**

Yes. A family child care network is a neighborhood-based organization, with a sponsoring agency such as a church, community center, a day care center or non-profit community group. A network will help you with your licensing/registration; provide opportunities for training and support, and can also refer neighborhood parents to your home. For a partial listing of networks, call **Child Care, Inc.** at (212) 929-7604. ext 3017 You will also receive a list from the New York City Department of Public Health when you submit your registration form.

## **WHAT ELSE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED?**

Working with children can be rewarding and fulfilling. It is also hard work and requires skill and planning. In considering a career in child care, it is important to ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do you have the patience and energy to care for young children for long periods of time?
2. How would other members of your family feel about using your home for child care?
3. What hours of care would you provide-full time? Part time?
4. What fees could families in your neighborhood afford to pay for child care?
5. Are you willing to find information and participate in training?
6. Are you open to new ideas and activities?
7. Will you care for infants, pre-schoolers, school- age children, or a mixed age group of children?